

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Regular Meeting - January 8, 2002 - 6:00 p.m.
Linda N. Gilstrap, Clerk to Council
AMENDED
M I N U T E S

All area newspapers, radio stations and television stations were informed of this meeting in compliance with guidelines set forth in the *Freedom of Information Act*.

PRESENT

Chairman Larry E. Greer - District #3, Presiding
G. Fred Tolly - District #1
Vice Chairman Gracie S. Floyd - District #2
Clint Wright - District #4
Mike Holden - District #5
William C. Dees - District #6
M. Cindy Wilson - District #7
Joey Preston - Administrator
Tom Martin - County Attorney
Linda N. Gilstrap - Clerk to Council
Tammie Shealy, Deputy Clerk to Council

(During times of discussion and presentations the minutes are condensed and paraphrased.)

The official meeting of the Anderson County Council convened in the Council Chambers of the Historic Courthouse on Tuesday, January 8, 2002 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Fred Tolly gave invocation and everyone stood and pledged allegiance to the flag.

Chairman Wright gave comments stating that it was his pleasure and honor to serve as Chairman for the first 7-member Council, he appreciated staff support, community comments both in agreement and disagreement, and most importantly dialog with the Council.

Chairman Wright then called for nominations for Chairman for 2002. Mr. Tolly nominated Mr. Larry Greer to serve as Chair and Mr. Dees seconded the nomination. Ms. Wilson stated that Mr. Greer had asked for her support Friday afternoon at a meeting and she responded that if he would provide for her the

foundation for his allegations that she has a financial interest in appealing permits from DHEC for the Beaverdam Sewer line. What he just showed her was not acceptable. She had paid legal fees and other fees and she has no financial interest except to pay bills. She wanted to make this clear for the record when there should be foundations for allegation so extreme. Vote on the motion was six in favor and one abstention (Ms. Wilson). Motion carried.

Mr. Wright turned the gavel over to new Chairman Greer. Chairman Greer opened the floor for nominations for vice chairman. Mr. Mike Holden nominated Ms. Gracie Floyd and Mr. Dees seconded. Ms. Cindy Wilson nominated Mr. Bill Dees. Mr. Dees withdrew his name from the nominations. Vote was six in favor and one abstention (Ms. Wilson).

Chairman Greer presented Mr. Wright a plaque for his services as Chairman during 2001.

Mr. Clint Wright explained that there had been a lot of discussion regarding an EMS issue in Pendleton and the fact that it was clear that there was a good bit of disagreement and different matters of opinion on the issue. He said that he met with the Pendleton Squad to try to determine the best course of action for the rescue and the EMS coverage in the Pendleton area. He received a letter, signed by Buddy Durham, Chairman of the Pendleton Area Rescue Squad, this afternoon and he read the letter into the record. The letter states that the Pendleton Area Rescue Squad Board of Directors had hired a very qualified person to manage the day-to-day operations of the squad and they feel that with this new individual on board that the Rescue Squad would be able to operate in a very business and professional manner; therefore the board requested that the Resolution (#R2002-002) presently on the agenda be removed. Mr. Wright officially removed the resolution from the agenda.

Citizens Comments: 1. Steve Shore of 1203 Summers Drive, Pendleton stated that he was the chief operating officer of MedShore and paramedic. He said that there was a great vace knowledge of EMS in Anderson County. When MedShore made a request to the Pendleton Rescue Squad to take over their area; it was at their request not MedShore's. As a citizen with three children and one grandson who lives in the Pendleton area, he feels that the County does not need to get into the EMS business because of the unknown tax increases. 2. Joseph Green - asked to make his comments under item #3 on the agenda. No others wished to speak.

Mr. Michael Mullinax, representing the Homeland Park Water District, presented Resolution #R2002-004 calling for a public hearing for the purpose of annexing two small areas into the Homeland Park Water District. He said the areas currently do not exist in any other service area and are contiguous to the boundaries of Homeland Park Water District and the purpose of the petition included with the resolution is to set a date and time for the public hearing so that anyone wishes to speak can appear prior to Council's decision on the annexation. The public hearing will be held at the February 19, 2002 meeting. Mr. Holden moved to add the Resolution to the agenda and Mr. Tolly seconded. Vote was unanimous. Mr. Holden moved to approve the resolution as presented and Mr. Tolly seconded. Mr. Greer asked Mr. Mullinax what areas were being pursued for annexation. He referred to the map attached to the petition which is a small area on the western side of 28 bypass and a small area on the eastern side of Verennes Road. Mr. Greer asked if this would include any area on Highway 28 south on the left in the neighborhood of Clinkscales Road, down to Highway 185 and over to Rocky River. Mr. Mullinax stated that the statement was correct. Mr. Greer said that he had a copy from the Secretary of State stating that they have certification that this area is a designated service district. Mr. Mullinax stated that according to Title 6 of the S.C. Code is the only means by which property can be annexed and it only can be annexed into any district by the County Council and not by the Secretary of State and he does not know what document he has from the Secretary of State. Starr-Iva has been a private water company up until a couple weeks ago at which time they joined in some type legislation in order to facilitate some type joint water authority but State law provides that the County Council in each County is the sole governing body to set boundary lines on special purpose districts when they have not been set by legislation. Mr. Dees called for the question. Vote was six in favor and one opposed. Mr. Greer opposed the motion.

Mr. Steve Marchbanks, with Mental Health invited all County Council members and others to their Mental Health walk scheduled for April 13, 2002 at 10 a.m. starting at the Courthouse steps. Dr. Taylor thanked Council for their financial assistance they provide to the Department. She gave a brief presentation of what Mental Health services are provided in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Counties. Council received as information.

Council heard from Larry Brock. Mr. Brock said that he believed that Anderson County was not ready to run an EMS squad and he felt that the interpretation of the contract was that other squads would have first option to cover another squad area. Mr. Dan Durham from the Pelzer Rescue Squad wants County Council

to realize the cooperative spirit that all rescue squads has with the County. Mr. Patrick Brock, former Director of Pendleton Rescue Squad said that the department voted unanimously that they would not back the Board. He said that the members of the rescue squad feel like they are being omitted from what is happening. Mr. Frank Kohn, a ten-year volunteer said that he was deeply concerned over the last two years and the way the Pendleton Rescue Squad and Board of Directors have acted. He said that the membership feels left out, that they have not been given all the things that are going on, and they know that they can provide and they have for the past 18 months. They just would like to know what is going on. He said that it saddens him that when the aquatics team is in freezing water because they do not have the money to provide adequate wear and they do this because they love what they do. They are committed to patient care and beyond just providing an ambulance ride to the hospital. Council received all remarks as information.

Mr. Bill Dees read Resolution #R2002-001 - a resolution supporting and encouraging South Carolina Senator John Hawkins (R-Spartanburg) in his efforts to introduce and have approved legislation reducing the Blood alcohol content level for drivers to be considered legally impaired; and other matters relating thereto. Mr. Dees moved to approve and Mr. Tolly seconded. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

Mr. Tom Martin presented Resolution #R2002-003 - a resolution to provide for the commissioning of certain named law enforcement officers, to provide for the proper security, general welfare, and convenience of Anderson. This would be commissioning of Richard Dean Gray and Sandy Dean Hayes as Anderson County Compliance Officers. Mr. Wright moved to approve and Mr. Dees seconded. Vote was six in favor and one opposed (Ms. Wilson opposed.) Motion carried.

Mr. Bill Dees asked for a Point of Personal Privilege. The Chairman granted the request. Mr. Dees stated that the Clerks to Council are being requested to transcribing minutes. Mr. Dees suggested the following be considered on verbatim. When a transcription would consume more than eight total hours (actual working time) he would recommend the Clerk to Council the option to hire a professional court reporter to transcribe verbatim. He said that the Clerks are being exhausted doing this work and letting other work for Council go. Mr. Dees moved that anytime when the Clerks are transcribing minutes verbatim and the time of transcription exceeds 8 hours of actual clerk time that this be put out for a professional to do the transcribing. Mr. Holden seconded Mr. Dee's

motion. Mr. Wright asked what was the need for minutes verbatim when we have audio and videotapes of the meeting. He said that seems to be a matter of redundancy and the County should not have to pay for either way. Ms. Wilson said that sometime the videotapes run out. Mr. Tolly said that he was not opposed to the motion, but he was opposed to spending all the money to duplicate the process three times. Mr. Dees said that Council could ask Charter Communication for a copy of the tape, furnish additional help for the Clerks, or do not do verbatim at all. Ms. Floyd wanted to know what was the need for verbatim and Ms. Wilson responded that it was for the minutes when there were areas of serious discussion. Mr. Greer said that there are different reasons that this is requested. Mr. Greer offered an alternative solution for Council to consider. He said that the Council office could maintain an archive copy and one file copy of the video (the file copy would be available to be checked out by individual Council members for their review). Ms. Wilson said that a verbatim record of the December 4, 2001 meeting would be very helpful. Mr. Greer suggested that Council restrict the request for verbatim minutes to be approved by Council. Council would also maintain two copies of the tapes. Mr. Dees withdrew his prior motion to reflect the suggestion by Chairman Greer that no verbatim would be done unless it was voted on by County Council in open session and two copies of the video tapes be maintained and audio tape will also be maintained in the Council office. Mr. Tolly seconded. Mr. Greer asked Council to allow him to work out a system with Charter Communications regarding the videotapes. The affirmative vote was unanimous.

Chairman Greer announced that the retreat had been set for February 2, 2002 beginning at 9 a.m. subject to confirmation that the Civic Center would be available.

Chairman Greer made the following Ad Hoc Committee Appointments:

AD HOC COMMITTEE: Exploring Revenue Alternatives (to illuminate in part or in whole some categories of property taxation): Chairman Clint Wright, Members: Gracie Floyd and Larry Greer.

AD HOC COMMITTEE: Small Business Economic Incentives: Chairperson Gracie Floyd, Members: Cindy Wilson and Bill Dees.

AD HOC COMMITTEE: Study EMS Response Times: Chairperson Cindy Wilson, Members: Fred Tolly and Bill Dees.

Mr. Martin informed everyone that all Ad Hoc Committees were subject to the terms of the Freedom of Information Act and suggested that the Clerks be notified of the meetings for compliance.

Chairman Greer suggested that Ms. Gracie Floyd and Mr. Joe Davenport (as citizens representative) to serve another term on the S.C. Appalachian Council of Governments' Board. Mr. Tolly moved to approve the appointments and Mr. Holden seconded. Vote was unanimous.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

- a. Certificates & Training:
 - 1. Ms. Julia E. Nichols - OSHA Fire Fighter Course
- b. Letters of Appreciation: -
 - 1. For: Ms. Kathryn Campbell From: Mr. Donald Hallcom, Deputy Director, FRIENDS, Inc.
 - 2. For: Mr. Michael A. Miller From: Mr. William R. Neill, Deputy Director S.C. Department of Public Safety
- b. Minutes:
 - 1. EMS Called Meeting - December 20, 2001
 - 2. Transportation Division Safety Meeting - December 14, 2001
- c. Reports:
 - 1. Recreation Fund Account
 - 2. Public Safety Training Report (November, 2001)
 - 3. Detention Center Litter Report - December 11-14, 2001
- d. Foothills United Way
- e. Legislative Delegation Letter regarding *ad valorem* property taxes
- f. Departmental Transfers
- g. Election Calendar for 2002 Primary and General Elections
- h. Journal Entry Transaction Summary

Mr. Preston introduced the new Maintenance Shop Manager - Mr. Charles Pinson.

Ms. Wilson asked Mr. Preston questions concerning a date on the Journal Transaction included in the packet. She asked what department was account #000-5831-000-118 for a journal entry on the transaction report. Mr. Preston asked Ms. Wilson to put those questions in writing. Ms. Wilson said that she would show it to him after the meeting.

Ms. Wilson stated that there was need to change the ordinance on the appointments to the Economic Development Advisory Board. She asked Mr. Martin to give a status report at the next meeting.

Ms. Wilson stated that the Town of Honea Path would like to have study done to link their towns with the Clemson Transit System 4-U Bus system. She asked that this be done by the next meeting. Mr. Preston stated that a request had already been sent to the S.C. Appalachian Council of Governments for a study. She asked that all entities receiving checks (like Craytonville Fire Department) receive their checks on a timely manner. Ms. Wilson asked would the County be paying the expenses associated with the planned trip to Washington, D.C. in May. Mr. Preston responded yes.

There being no further business, Council adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda N. Gilstrap, Clerk to Council
ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL